



**Charter Commission Minutes
Special Meeting
City of Las Vegas Council Chambers
1700 North Grand Avenue
Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.**

Call to Order

Chairman Apodaca called the meeting to order at 1:35p.m.

Roll Call

Present

Commission Chair Apodaca
Commissioner Martinez
Commission Vice Chair Salazar
Commissioner Einer
Commissioner Ludi
Commissioner Madrid

Also Present

Darlene Arguello, City Staff
Elaine Rodriguez, City Councilor
David Romero, City Councilor
Michael Montoya, City Councilor

Absent

David Ulibarri, City Councilor

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Apodaca called for a motion to approve the agenda and stated that Councilor Ulibarri would not be able to attend the meeting today and so he would be rescheduled for the Special Meeting on June 29, 2021.

Commissioner Martinez made a motion to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Einer seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously with amendments.

Approval of Minutes

a. June 3, 2021 Meeting

Chairman Apodaca called for a motion to approve the minutes of June 3, 2021.

Commissioner Einer made a motion to approve the minutes.

Commissioner Madrid seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Public Input

No public input was submitted via email to Darlene Arguello.

Discussion

1. Information and Insights from City Councilors

Councilor Rodriguez:

Councilor Rodriguez first (1st) item for consideration was Section 2.01B – the number of Councilors to a higher number. She recommended that the number go from four (4) to five (5), or possibly seven (7). Brief discussion was held regarding changing the number of Councilors, increase of budget and redistricting.

Councilor Rodriguez's second (2nd) item for consideration was Section 2.07B Meetings. She expressed concern about not having enough time or being able to discuss issues with other Councilors without violating the Open Meetings Act. She elaborated on possibly having some type of informal meetings or having Work Sessions for discussions.

Further lengthy discussion was held regarding this topic.

Councilor Rodriguez also expressed that she came in as a Councilor with a disadvantage in regards to no time and guidance on her roles and duties as a Councilor.

Chairman Apodaca stated that there should be a playbook incorporated into Section 2.02 Powers and Duties for startup officials coming in as guidance on what their duties would be and the process of the system.

Commissioner Martinez elaborated on the process that was taken before when he served as Mayor. He agreed that more Councilors were needed and that previously at least one or two Councilors served on each committee in the City. He also expressed that the Community needed to be more involved.

Further brief discussion was held regarding the committees.

Commissioner Ludi agreed that new Councilors coming in need guidance and to be advised of the goals and duties expected of them in order for them to function in their capacity.

Commissioner Einer stated that the Commission is aware of the issues with the current number of Councilors and expressed that votes without discussion and debate are dangerous.

Further lengthy discussion was held.

Councilor Rodriguez's third (3rd) item for consideration was Section 5.01 – City Manager Appointment and General Provisions. She stated that she would like to change the appointment of the City Manager by the Mayor to the City Council. She explained that she would like for the selection process to be more open and based on qualifications. She briefly elaborated further.

Chairman Apodaca asked Councilor Rodriguez what level of qualifications for the City Manager position she would like to see in the Charter and why she would want to take away that power from a City Mayor to appoint a City Manager and give it to the Council.

Councilor Rodriguez stated that 1) the Council represents the residents 2) qualifications – should be a combination of education, experience, management and leadership type of positions. She further elaborated on her reasons and further lengthy discussion was held.

Councilor Romero:

Councilor Romero's first (1st) item for consideration was the Mayor's qualifications in regards to residency. He stated that he would like to see it change from ninety (90) days to six (6) months. He further explained as to why he made the suggestion.

Councilor Romero stated that he was in agreement with Councilor Rodriguez on her discussion regarding the process of the City Manager and stated that the City Manager does not only work and serve the Mayor but the whole Governing Body as well. He expressed that ICMA was a needed process for the City Manager's qualifications.

Further brief discussion was held regarding the qualifications of the City Manager.

Discussion was opened up in regards to Campaign and Ethics Committee and the accountability of the Mayor and Council. Also discussed were the elections, recall process and agendas.

Further lengthy discussion was held.

City Attorney Scott Aaron elaborated briefly on state law and the process of citizen complaints brought against the Governing Body.

Councilor Romero's second (2nd) item for consideration was after the Mayoral election that all committees be open to the public through advertisement. He stated that there is a need for fresh faces and perspective.

Further brief discussion was held.

Councilor Romero also talked about positions within the City that need to be advertised.

Further brief discussion was held.

Councilor Montoya:

Councilor Montoya's first (1st) item for consideration was to add in Section 5.06 the Fire Chief's position to be appointed and dismissed by Mayor and Council. He elaborated on his reasons for this suggestion.

Councilor Montoya's second (2nd) item for consideration was Section 3.02 Powers and Duties in regards to civil emergencies, executive orders and directives, that when there is an emergency a special meeting should be called by the Mayor within twenty-four (24) hours to address the issue.

Councilor Montoya's third (3rd) item for consideration was Section 8.01 City Elections. He stated that he supports a no run-off election. He further elaborated on his reasons and also discussed the Organizational Meeting that needs to occur after the Mayoral election.

Further lengthy discussion was held in regards to elections.

Councilor Montoya's fourth (4th) item was Section 2.06 Compensation. He stated that the first time he served as Council he was not aware that it was a paid position. He talked about the salary amounts and when there was a proposal on increase from the \$10,000.00 and how it was rejected. He suggested that the salary increase to a reasonable amount.

Further lengthy discussion was held.

Councilor Montoya's sixth (6th) item was Section 2.01 Corporate Authority. He stated he would like to see the number of Councilors go to five (5) from four (4). He elaborated on his thoughts and reasons for the request and stated he would support the five (5) Councilors.

Councilor Montoya's seventh (7th) item was the appointment of all boards, commissions and committees should be appointed by the Mayor forty-five (45) days after he takes office. He stated that an individual that is running for Mayor should have a plan prior on the appointment of boards, commissions and committee members.

Further brief discussion was held.

Councilor Montoya's eighth (8th) item was Section 5.01 as to appointments of City Manager and all positions being recommended by Mayor and approved by Council have to be opened at large. He stated that the positions for City Manager, Chief of Police, Fire Chief, City Attorney and City Clerk should be advertised positions and interviewed and selected by Mayor and Council. He further elaborated on the current process and how he feels it is not working.

Further brief discussion was held.

Councilor Montoya advised the Commission that he supported obtaining legal counsel to help the Commission get the Charter completed.

Councilor Montoya's ninth (9th) item for consideration was the elections and having them in concurrence with State elections in November.

Brief discussion was held on the overview of everyone's perspective and suggested changes on the Charter.

City Attorney Scott Aaron briefly elaborated that the addition of another Councilor would not necessarily mean that there would be a need for redistricting wards. He stated it could be an at large position.

Further brief discussion was held.

Adjournment

Commissioner Martinez made a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Einer seconded the motion.

Motion to adjourn passed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.



Commission Chair Apodaca

9/5/2021

Date